

**IN THE CLAIMS**

*The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listing.*

**1. (Currently Amended)** A ~~contents~~content acquiring device comprising:

cache means for temporarily storing received ~~contents~~content;

acquisition request accepting means for accepting an acquisition request for ~~contents~~content;

cache deciding means for deciding whether or not the ~~contents~~content requested by the acquisition request is are stored in the cache means or not;

~~valid~~valid ~~validity~~ expiration setting means for setting a ~~valid~~valid ~~validity~~ expiration as an update expiration of the ~~contents~~content based on a ~~valid~~valid ~~validity~~ term of the ~~contents~~content, when it is decided by the cache deciding means that the ~~contents~~content is are stored in the cache means;

acquisition request transmitting means for transmitting the acquisition request for the ~~contents~~content, when the ~~contents~~content are out of is past the ~~valid~~valid ~~validity~~ expiration set by the ~~valid~~valid ~~validity~~ expiration setting means; and

~~contents~~content receiving means for receiving ~~contents~~content based on the acquisition request transmitted from the acquisition request transmitting means,

wherein if a control section determines that the content is received normally by the content receiving means, the control section updates with the content received the cache means.

**2. (Currently Amended)** The ~~contents~~content acquiring device according to claim 1, further comprising ~~valid~~validity term holding means for ~~previously~~ holding a ~~valid~~previously held validity term, and ~~valid~~validity term addition deciding means for deciding whether or not the ~~valid~~validity term is ~~added to~~ associated with the ~~contents~~content ~~or not~~, when it is decided by the cache deciding means that the ~~contents~~content ~~is~~are stored in the cache means, the ~~valid~~validity expiration setting means serving to set the ~~valid~~validity expiration based on ~~thea~~ ~~valid~~previously held validity term held by the ~~valid~~validity term holding means when it is decided by the ~~valid~~validity term addition deciding means that the ~~valid~~validity term ~~was~~is not associated~~added~~,

wherein when the content requested to be acquired from the content server does not exist or cannot be found, the control section deletes the corresponding content stored in the cache section.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of acquiring ~~contents~~content comprising the steps of:

acquisition request accepting means for accepting an acquisition request for ~~contents~~content;

deciding whether or not the ~~contents~~content requested by the acquisition request accepted at the acquisition request accepting step ~~is are~~ stored in a cache for temporarily storing received ~~contents~~content;

setting a ~~valid~~valid-validity expiration as an update expiration of the ~~contents~~content based on a ~~valid~~valid-validity term added to the ~~contents~~content when it is decided at the cache deciding step that the ~~contents~~content ~~is are~~ stored in the cache;

transmitting the acquisition request for the ~~contents~~content when the ~~contents~~content ~~has passed are out of~~ the ~~valid~~valid-validity expiration set at the ~~valid~~valid-validity expiration setting step; and

receiving ~~contents~~content corresponding to the acquisition request transmitted at the acquisition request transmitting step,

wherein if a control section determines that the content is received normally by the content receiving means, the control section updates with the content received the cache means.

**4. (Currently Amended)** The method of acquiring ~~contents~~content according to claim 3, further comprising the step of deciding whether or not the validvalidity term is associated with added to the ~~contents~~content or not when it is decided at the cache deciding step that the ~~contents~~content ~~is~~are stored in the cache, the validvalidity expiration setting step serving to set the validvalidity expiration based on a previously held validvalidity term when it is decided at the validvalidity term addition deciding step that the validvalidity term is not associated~~added~~.

wherein when the content requested to be acquired from the content server does not exist or cannot be found, the control section deletes the corresponding content stored in the cache section.

**5. (Currently Amended)** A ~~contents~~content server comprising:

~~contents~~content storing means for previously storing ~~contents~~content;

acquisition request receiving means for receiving an acquisition request transmitted when the ~~contents~~content has ~~passed~~are ~~out of~~ a validvalidity expiration ~~serving as~~to be an update expiration of the ~~contents~~content stored in a cache, which

validity expiration is ~~are~~ set based on a valid ~~validity~~ term of the ~~contents~~ content; and

~~contents~~ content transmitting means for fetching the ~~contents~~ content requested by the acquisition request received by the acquisition request receiving means from the ~~contents~~ content storing means and for transmitting the ~~contents~~ content to a destination of the acquisition request.

wherein if a control section determines that the content is received normally by the content receiving means, the control section updates with the content received the cache means.

**6. (Currently Amended)** The ~~contents~~ content server according to claim 5, wherein the valid ~~validity~~ expiration is set based on a valid ~~previously held~~ validity term ~~previously held~~ in the destination of the acquisition request when the valid ~~validity~~ term is not associated with ~~added to~~ the ~~contents~~ content stored in the cache.

wherein when the content requested to be acquired from the content server does not exist or cannot be found, the control section deletes the corresponding content stored in the cache section.

**7. (Currently Amended)** A ~~contents~~ content acquiring system comprising:

a ~~contents~~content acquiring device for transmitting via a network an acquisition request ~~for~~of ~~contents~~content ~~that is to be~~ an acquisition request object prestored ~~through a network~~ when the ~~contents~~content ~~has passed~~are out of a ~~valid~~validity expiration ~~serving as~~to be an update expiration of the ~~contents~~content set based on a ~~valid~~validity term of the ~~contents~~content, and for receiving ~~contents~~content corresponding thereto; and

a ~~contents~~content server for reading ~~contents~~content corresponding to an acquisition request transmitted from the ~~contents~~content acquiring device from ~~contents~~content in various fields which are prestored, and for transmitting via the network the ~~contents~~content corresponding to the acquisition request to the ~~contents~~content acquiring device ~~through the network~~.

wherein if a control section determines that the content is received normally by the content receiving means, the control section updates with the content received the cache means.

**8. (Currently Amended)** The ~~contents~~content acquiring system according to claim 7, wherein the ~~valid~~validity expiration is set based on a predetermined ~~valid~~validity term previously held, when a ~~valid~~validity term is not added to the ~~contents~~content ~~that is the~~to be an acquisition request object,

wherein when the content requested to be acquired from the content server does not exist or cannot be found, the control section deletes the corresponding content stored in the cache section.

**9. (Currently Amended) A ~~contents~~content acquiring system comprising:**

a ~~contents~~content acquiring device including cache means for temporarily storing received ~~contents~~content, acquisition request accepting means for accepting an acquisition request for ~~contents~~content, cache deciding means for deciding whether or not the ~~contents~~content requested by the acquisition request is stored in the cache means or not, valid validity expiration setting means for setting a valid validity expiration as an update expiration of the ~~contents~~content based on a valid term validity term added to the ~~contents~~content when it is decided by the cache deciding means that the ~~contents~~content is stored in the cache means, acquisition request transmitting means for transmitting the acquisition request for the ~~contents~~content when the ~~contents~~content have passed are out of the valid validity expiration set by the valid validity expiration setting means, and ~~contents~~content receiving means for receiving ~~contents~~content based on the acquisition request transmitted from the acquisition request transmitting means; and

a ~~contents~~content server including ~~contents~~content storing means for previously storing ~~contents~~content, acquisition request receiving means for receiving an acquisition request transmitted from the acquisition request transmitting means, and ~~contents~~content transmitting means for fetching the ~~contents~~content requested by the acquisition request received by the acquisition request receiving means from the ~~contents~~content storing means, and for transmitting the ~~contents~~content to the content acquiring device~~acquisition request~~,

wherein if a control section determines that the content is received normally by the content receiving means, the control section updates with the content received the cache means.

**10. (Currently Amended)** The ~~contents~~content acquiring system according to claim 9, further comprising ~~valid~~validity term holding means for previously holding a ~~valid~~validity term, and ~~valid~~validity term addition deciding means for deciding whether or not the ~~valid~~validity term is associated with~~added to~~ the ~~contents~~content, or not when it is decided by the cache deciding means that the ~~contents~~content is~~are~~ stored in the cache means, the ~~valid~~validity expiration setting means serving to set the ~~valid~~validity expiration based on a held ~~valid~~validity term of~~held by~~ the ~~valid~~validity term holding means when it is decided by the ~~valid~~

validity term addition deciding means that the ~~valid~~validity term is not associated~~added~~.

wherein when the content requested to be acquired from the content server does not exist or cannot be found, the control section deletes the corresponding content stored in the cache section.